

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Management Framework

Draft Materials for June 2019 Meetings

The attached map and matrix will be discussed in more detail at the June 2019 public meetings.

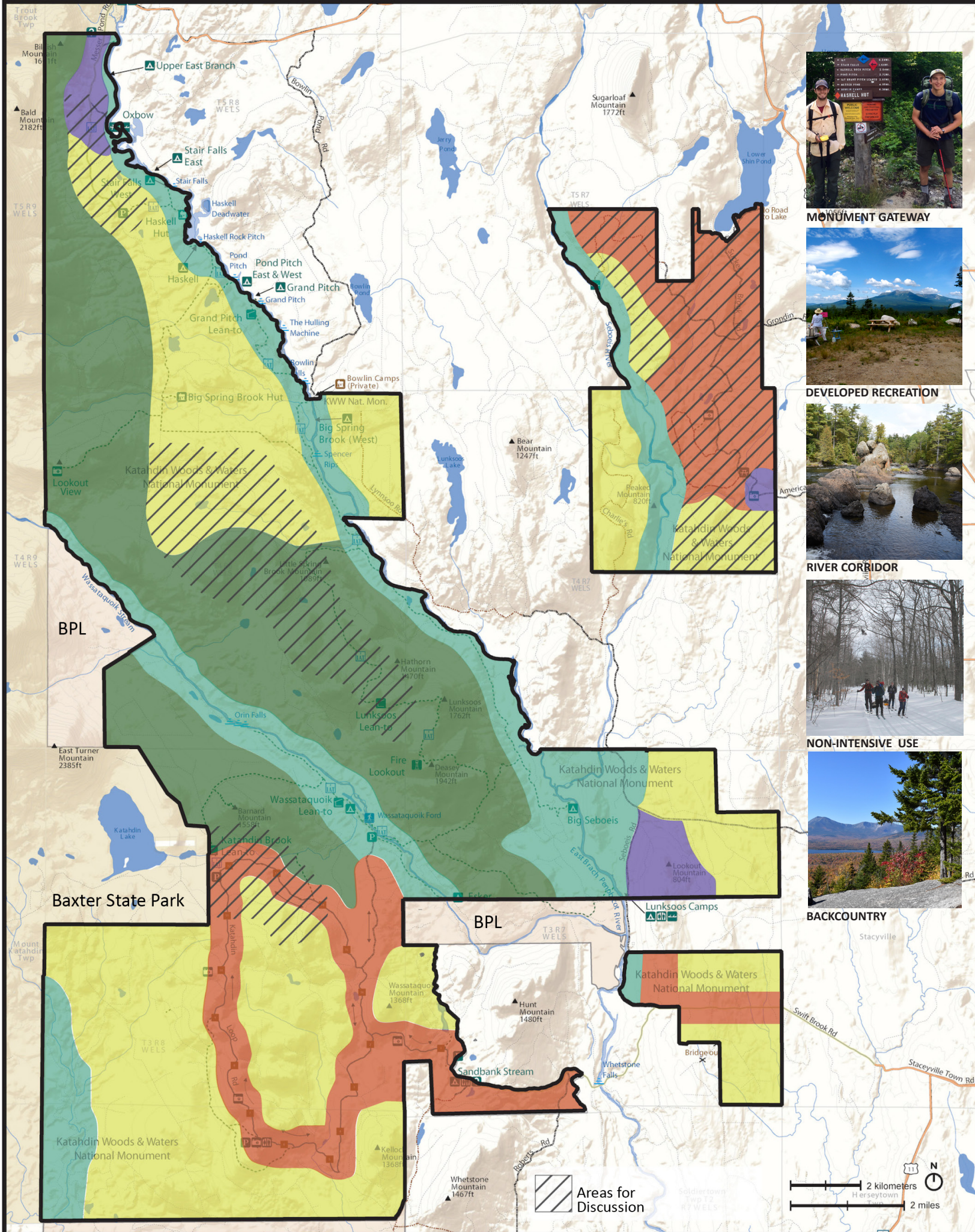
Information reflects what we have heard throughout the planning process to date and represents initial thinking on potential management areas and a possible descriptions of the experiences within those areas.

Note: attached materials have been prepared for upcoming public informational meetings should be considered draft documents for discussion only.

Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument Management Framework

DRAFT 04.17.19

National Parks Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



MONUMENT GATEWAY



DEVELOPED RECREATION



RIVER CORRIDOR



NON-INTENSIVE USE



BACKCOUNTRY

MONUMENT GATEWAY

Monument Gateways serve as access points to the National Monument – one in the north just south of the Matagamon Gate, one in the south on the east side of the East Branch, off the Swift Brook Road, and one in the northeast off the American Thread Road leading into the Seboeis parcel.

DEVELOPED RECREATION

The Developed Recreation Area is comprised of four auto-accessible places within the NM: the area surrounding the Loop Road and the Swift Brook Road, and most of the land in the Seboeis River parcel outside of the River Corridor.

RIVER CORRIDOR

The River Corridors embrace all of the lands generally within the foreground (i.e., within 0.25 mile) of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, Seboeis River, Wassataquoik Stream, and Sandy Stream. The waterways include some of the defining features of the Monument, with waterfalls and rapids, deadwaters, and long stretches of canoeable streams.

NON-INTENSIVE USE

The Non-Intensive Use Area includes parcels on both sides of the East Branch of the Penobscot River and a large area in the southwest portion of the Monument. Visitor use would be primarily oriented toward non-motorized activities throughout the year.

BACKCOUNTRY

The Backcountry Area is the most undeveloped and remote part of the Monument, encompassing numerous named and unnamed mountains, several significant streams and ponds, and the International Appalachian Trail. The Backcountry is largely located adjacent to Baxter State Park, where it extends the conservation landscape through shared mountains, rivers and streams, and corridors for flora and fauna.

DESIRED RESOURCE CONDITION

PARK GATEWAY	DEVELOPED RECREATION	RIVER CORRIDOR	NON-MOTORIZED	BACKCOUNTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on co-existence between natural environment and visitor use / experience. • Natural and physical resources may be manipulated to accommodate and withstand relatively high visitor use. • Natural ecological processes may be controlled to protect human life and infrastructure. • New facilities and physical improvements would be sited to aesthetically blend with existing natural and cultural conditions. • Sounds and sights of motorized human activity would be apparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports both recreation and natural resource functions and values. • Natural / physical resources will remain relatively intact but may be modified to accommodate visitor use and recreational activities. • Roadways and related facilities provide visitors with relatively easy access to experience the woods and waters of the NM. • Modification to the road system and related facilities (parking areas, overlooks) for improved visitor access, safety, and park operations would be designed and located as unobtrusively as possible in appropriate settings. • Multiple users from outside the Monument (e.g., logging operations, residential development at Shin Pond) would be accommodated on existing roads. • Sights and sounds of visitor use would be apparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports both low-impact recreation (land-based and water-dependent) and the preservation of natural resource functions and values. • Rivers, streams, and adjacent corridors would be carefully protected from degradation while allowing natural processes to occur. • Some modifications to the natural environment would be allowed to provide for interpretation, visitor services, and public safety, depending upon the characteristics of the individual river segment. • Sounds and sights of human activity would be minimized, especially on rivers with high levels of visitor expectation. • Cultural, geological, and other resources within the River Corridor would be recognized and interpreted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports non-motorized recreational activities and natural resource functions and values. • Development, where visible, appears subordinate to and harmonious with the natural, cultural, and historic landscape. • Coexistence between recreational users and natural and scenic resources would be emphasized. • The presence of roadways is secondary to the recreational experience, providing visitors with access to trailheads and other points of interest. • Active forest regeneration, with a focus on maintenance of recognized habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports a more remote or wilderness character and maintain the natural resource values of the larger landscape. • Resources and the natural ecological processes are carefully protected and any modification would be to support primitive recreation.

DESIRED VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PARK GATEWAY	DEVELOPED RECREATION	RIVER CORRIDOR	NON-MOTORIZED	BACKCOUNTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateways would provide a heightened/ welcoming/ memorable visitor experience at main entrances into the Monument. Visitors would have opportunities to become oriented to the Monument and get an overview of its cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational features. Gateways would provide a high level of visitor and administrative activity. The probability of seeing or encountering other visitors or park staff would range from moderate to high throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These areas support a variety of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities to experience and interact with the NM's natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic features. Areas would provide a variety of activities for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, campers, and others. The probability of seeing or encountering other visitors would range from moderate to high. The visitor would perceive the area as an example of forest succession resulting from its recent history of commercial forest operations. Visitors would appreciate the beauty of the Monument at both the site scale (foreground) and the landscape scale (background). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors would have outstanding opportunities to enjoy significant natural, scenic, and cultural resources in an area that has been shaped by man-made actions. Water users would encounter natural river systems with minimal to no views of land-based infrastructure. Visitors on land would have a heightened awareness of the rivers and streams that define the corridors. The probability of seeing or encountering others near more accessible water features would range from moderate to high, primarily during spring, summer, and fall. Visitor density would decrease with further travel from these areas, and along corridor areas with more primitive access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors will have a variety of opportunities to participate in recreation activities while experiencing the Monument's topography, water features, flora, and fauna. There would be low to moderate probability of encountering other visitors. Non-motorized Use Areas would provide opportunities for experiences midway between the remoteness and solitude of the Backcountry Areas and the excitement and dynamic character of the River Corridor Areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors have opportunities to be immersed in the undeveloped nature of the Backcountry and to experience a sense of remoteness and self-reliance in a nature-dominated environment. The probability of seeing or encountering others would be lowest. The realities of the Backcountry – e.g., the lack of services and rudimentary facilities – must be accepted as part of the visitor experience.

TYPES AND LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT

PARK GATEWAY	DEVELOPED RECREATION	RIVER CORRIDOR	NON-MOTORIZED	BACKCOUNTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of development could occur in the Gateways: roads, trails, parking areas, and pathways; restrooms and drinking water; picnic areas; informative kiosks, interpretive signage and exhibits; operations, maintenance, administration, and visitor use structures, and related facilities as needed. • Physical improvements would follow an appropriate design motif and reinforce overall goals of the National Monument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities found in these areas would include roads and turnouts; parking areas; trails, boardwalks, and trailheads; restrooms; river access and picnic areas. • Roadways, trails, and natural resource destinations would be well marked to provide wayfinding and enhance visitor experience. • Facilities would accommodate relatively large number of visitors while being compatible with sensitive habitats and natural resources found in these areas. • Additions to the landscape, such as interpretive and directional signs, markers and accessibility features, and trails would enhance visitor experience and public safety as well as protect natural, cultural, and scenic features. • The road system would be consistent with the character of Maine's north woods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access would be primarily by trails. Vehicle access would be very limited, or strictly regulated by gates, primarily for administrative or emergency access. • Facilities may include trails, boardwalks, footbridges, trailheads; portages / water access; picnic areas, campsites, huts; restrooms. • Facilities would be designed for relatively large number of visitors while being compatible with sensitive habitats and natural resources. • Development would be designed to balance visitor enjoyment, resource protection, and visitor safety. • Interpretive exhibits would allow visitors to interact with abundant natural, cultural, and scenic features that characterize river / stream corridors. • Discrete signage would mark access points, portages, trails, and natural features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities would include trails, boardwalks, and trailheads; isolated huts; primitive restroom facilities; primitive camp-sites; picnic areas. • Access would be primarily by multi-purpose and/or dedicated-use trails. Vehicle access would be regulated by gates for administrative or emergency purposes (e.g., the Haskell Gate controls access to Haskell Hut). • Facilities would accommodate a moderate number of visitors while being compatible with sensitive habitats and natural resources. • Occasional interpretive signs, exhibits, and trails would allow visitors to better understand and appreciate natural, cultural, and scenic features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in the Backcountry would be limited and dispersed. • Visitors should not expect the type of facilities found in other parts of the NM, e.g., rest rooms, campsites, bridges, or interpretive signage. • Existing structures (e.g., Fire Warden's Cabin, the Fire Lookout on Deasey Mountain, and the Lunksoos Lean-to) would be maintained or enhanced. Trails or interpretive markers would be possible in less environmentally sensitive areas. • A network of established hiking trails – including the International Appalachian Trail, the Barnard Mountain Trail, and the Lookout Trail – provide access to recreational opportunities.

TYPES AND LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES				
PARK GATEWAY	DEVELOPED RECREATION	RIVER CORRIDOR	NON-MOTORIZED	BACKCOUNTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying levels of management as needed to enhance visitor experience and safety, protect natural and cultural resources, and minimize impact from visitor use. • Management activities could include regular maintenance of both structure and landscape elements. • Management activities may involve NM staff, co-operators, and volunteers for administration, facility management. • Management needs could vary, depending upon seasonality and visitor use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management activities would focus on enhancing visitor experience and safety, protecting natural resources, and minimizing impacts from visitor use. • Appropriate management activities could include road, trail, and facility maintenance, monitoring types and levels of use, conducting research, and managing access to environmentally sensitive features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management would focus on: enhancing visitor experience and safety; interpretation of natural and cultural features; protecting natural resources; and minimizing impacts from visitor use. • Management activities could include monitoring visitor use; interpretation of natural and cultural resources; trail and facility maintenance; wintertime trail grooming; and managing access to environmentally sensitive features. • Management plans for habitat maintenance, forest fires, invasive species, trail maintenance, visitor safety, and facility development to be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management would focus on enhancing visitor experience and safety; protecting natural resources; and minimizing impacts from visitor use. • Management activities that could include interpretation of natural and cultural resources, trail and facility maintenance; wintertime trail grooming; and managing access to environmentally sensitive features. • Plans for interpretation, habitat management, Brook Trout management, forest fire management, invasive species management, and trail maintenance to be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management activities in the Backcountry would be minimal and only as necessary to protect natural resources from degradation, protect areas from negative visitor impact, maintain basic foot trails, and occasionally remove invasive species to promote health of the natural ecology. • Management and data collection only as necessary to inform and maintain natural resources and to protect resources from degradation. • Focused management may be required at specific points of interest, such as the Fire Warden's Cabin, the Fire Lookout on Deasey Mountain, and Lunksoos Lean-to.

TYPES AND LEVELS OF VISITOR ACTIVITIES

PARK GATEWAY	DEVELOPED RECREATION	RIVER CORRIDOR	NON-MOTORIZED	BACKCOUNTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor activities could include entering the Monument and receiving orientation to its resources and facilities. • Activities at the Gateways could include picnicking, hiking, biking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. • Nearby activities could include swimming, fishing, canoeing, and other water recreation. • Activities would most likely be self-directed and guided by orientation material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities might be self-directed or through visitor service to plan their activities. • Summer and fall activities could include sightseeing, picnicking, nature observation, star study, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and camping. • Hunting is allowed on the land east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine. Bear hunting with bait or dogs is not allowed. • Snowmobiling is allowed on designated/approved trails on Seboeis parcel, Hunt Farm Parcel, Three Rivers Parcel, and Deasey Pond Parcel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use levels in some areas (i.e., northern end of the East Branch) would likely be high, with people drawn by fishing, waterfalls and other features, publicity and media reports, and the relative ease of access. • Spring, summer, and fall activities could include boating, hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, camping, photography, and wildlife observation. • Winter activities could include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, fat tire biking, camping, photography, and wildlife observation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer and fall activities could include hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, camping, photography, and wildlife observation. • Winter activities could include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, fat tire biking, mountain biking, camping, photography, and wildlife observation. • Hunting is allowed east of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine. Bear hunting with bait or dogs is not allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities could include hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, nature study, photography, and wildlife observation. • Activities would be low-impact, utilizing existing facilities where feasible. • With limited facilities and access points, visitor use would likely remain relatively low. • Visitor use would be monitored to achieve the objectives for this area.